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**Testimony to the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
In Support of HB2656
February 8, 2024**

Chairman Owens,

Our associations support HB2656 creating enforcement tools to address the performance of street stunts. Street stunts take several different forms, but all produce a dangerous environment, not only for the people performing them but for other motorists and bystanders around the activity. In some cases, the street stunt performers will enter an intersection, usually one with traffic signals and begin a lengthy series of donuts in the intersection, blocking all traffic from moving. Occasionally, they result in crashes with non-participating vehicles and in other cases pedestrians have been hit and seriously injured or killed. In other events, motorcyclists on multi-lane roadways, usually when cars are stopped at traffic signals will move between vehicles and driving around them taunting the other drivers. These incidents sometimes evolve into assaults or criminal damage to vehicles. Another form is a group of vehicles intentionally driving erratically up and down the streets commonly weaving in and out of traffic, driving into oncoming traffic, and other dangerous stunts.

The common factors in these events include the operators violating a series of numerous minor traffic infractions. If police intervene, the offender often flees the officers producing a police pursuit. Confrontations with other motorists are not rare.

The bill attempts to address this through creation of a law using the “course of conduct” framework found in other statutes, such as, stalking, serial shoplifting cases, and human trafficking. It does this by establishing a list of typical violations that occur in combination during these incidents and making it a violation when three or more of those acts are committed during the street stunt activity. This distinguishes between these intentional serial events and when the listed violations occur in isolation.

To address the attempt to elude issue these often develop into, the bill amends KSA 8-1568 by adding “attempting to elude capture for the commission of engaging in a street stunt” to the list of aggravating factors for attempting to elude that elevates the severity level of the violation.

We believe that the changes to law will help reduce these events and hold the violators to a higher level of penalty consistent with the higher risk to others their actions create. We encourage you to move the bill forward favorably.

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